

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01

/074 W

-----051123Z 010157 /12

R 040801Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1263

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: SECURITY/POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: LAHORE 0459

1. PPP TOOK OUT PROCESSIONS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE PROVINCE ON MAY DAY, TWO OF WHICH IN MILTAN AND KHANEWAL LED TO VIOLENT CLASHES BETWEEN PPP AND OPPOSITION SUPPORTERS. ACCORDING TO URDU PRESS REPORTS, THREE PPP WORKERS WERE INJURED IN MULTAN WHEN PNA ATTACKED MARCHERS RAISING ANTI-PNA SLOGANS. PPP CROWD ALSO SHOUTED SLOGANS AGAINST AMERICA AND BEAT UP SEVERAL PNA WORKERS ELSEWHERE IN CITY. IN KHANEWAL, BOTH PPP AND PNA TOOK OUT MAY DAY PROCESSIONS. CLASH OCCURRED WHEN TWO GROUPS ATTEMPTED TO CONVEVE AT SAME TIME IN CENTER OF TOWN. FIRING ENSUED LEAVING FOUR FSF AND THREE CIVILIANS WOUNDED. ONE DEATH WAS LATER REPORTED. DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER AT MULTAN AND OTHER HIGH POLICE AND CIVIL OFFICIALS RUSHED TO THE SCENE TO HELP RESTORE ORDER. SITUATION REMAINS TENSE IN BOTH KHANEWAL AND MULTAN, WHICH ARE PNA STRONGHOLDS.

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2. LABOR UNIONS HELD MAY DAY FESTIVITIES IN LAHORE, LYALLPUR, GUJRANWALA, BHAHWALPUR AND OTHER CITIES AND TOWNS. IN LAHORE ABOUT 100 LABOR ORGANIZATIONS REPORTEDLY HELD A MEETING NEAR MAIN RAILWAY STATION WHERE THEY WERE ADDRESSED BY PUNJAB LABOR LABOR MINISTER SHEIKH RAFIQ AHMAD AND VARIOUS LABOR LEADERS. ACCENT HERE WAS HEAVILY

ANTI-AMERICAN AS WERE SPEECHES REPORTED ELSEWHERE. (COMMENT:
LESS THAN TWO WEEKS AGO FICKLE TRADE UNIONISTS WERE PREPARED
TO CARRY OUT GENERAL STRIKE, BUT NOW THEY ARE BACK AGAIN
WITH PPP.)

3. MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION IN LAHORE ANNOUNCED MAY 2
THAT SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL OPEN BEGINNING MAY 5 IN ALL
PARTS OF LAHORE DISTRICT EXCEPT THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
(LAHORE PROPER). INSTRUCTIONS FOR OPENING OF OTHER SCHOOLS
AND COLLEGES REPORTEDLY WILL BE ISSUED SOON. ACCORDING TO
ANNOUNCEMENT, NO POLITICAL ACTIVITY WILL BE PERMITTED IN
SCHOOLS. IF ANY OCCURS, SCHOOLS WILL BE CLOSED AGAIN AND
CULPRITS RESPONSIBLE WILL BE TRIED UNDER PAKISTAN ARMY ACT.

4. IN APPARENT EFFORT TO TIDY THINGS UP WHILE THEY HAVE
THE CHANCE, MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES HAVE ORDERED THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO ARMY COMMITTEES IN LAHORE TO COORDINATE
FUNCTIONS OF CIVIL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH
PUBLIC UTILITIES, SERVICES AND SECURITY. AIMS ARE TO
PROMOTE PERFORMANCE, REGULATE ACTIVITIES AND ASSIST IN
RECOVERY OF FEES.

GAMON

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